

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-23 are pending. Any additional claims fee can be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-2480.

The applicants have amended claims 1, 10, and 17. With regard to claims 1 and 17, the amendment was made to more specifically characterize the geometry of the cross sectional area of the ram. Support for this amendment can be found in the claims as previously presented and in Figures 1 and 2.

Claim 10 has been amended to more specifically characterize the wedge shape of the ram. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example at Figure 3 of the specification as filed.

Claims 4 and 12 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the claims as filed.

Additionally, new claim 23 has been added. New claim 23 is based upon the combination of claim 17 and claim 19.

It is believed these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter. Consequently, entry of these changes is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Office has rejected claims 4 and 12 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Claims 4 and 12 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4 and 12.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Liebig.

The Office has rejected claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, and 18, as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 801,026, issued to Liebig, hereafter, "Liebig". Applicants respectfully disagree.

Both claims 1 and 17 have been amended and recite the following in part, "a cross sectional area of the ram is asymmetric about a lateral axis of the ram." In contrast, the plunger 17 of Liebig is symmetric about its lateral axis. For example, a cross section of

the ram of figure 1 shown in the Office Action on page 2, about a lateral axis extending between the end face regions (3) would yield be symmetric. Accordingly, Applicants assert that Liebig does not teach or suggest all of the claim elements of claims 1 or 17. Additionally, because claims 2-3, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 15, depend from claim 1 and claim 18 depends from claim 17, Applicants assert that Liebig similarly fails to teach or suggest their claim elements. Therefore, Applicants assert that Liebig does not anticipate claims 1-3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, and 18.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Liebig.

Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Liebig. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 4 and 6 depend from claim 1. As stated previously, Liebig fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of claim 1. As such, Liebig fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of claims 4 and 6. Accordingly, Applicants assert that claims 4 and 6 are nonobvious over Liebig.

Claims 11, 12, 16, 20, and 21, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Liebig. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claims 11, 12, and 16 depend from claim 1 and claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 17. As stated previously, Liebig fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of claims 1 and 17. As such Liebig fails to teach or suggest all of the claim elements of claims 11, 12, 16, 20, and 21. Accordingly, Applicants assert that claims 11, 12, 16, 20, and 21 are nonobvious over Liebig.

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Conclusion

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under § 112, second paragraph, § 102(b) and § 103(a). Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested. Please consider the above remarks and reconsider the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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